

1  
2  
3  
4  
5  
6  
7  
8  
9  
10  
11  
12  
13  
14  
15  
16  
17  
18  
19  
20  
21  
22  
23  
24  
25  
26  
27  
28  
UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
DISTRICT OF NEVADAPATRICIA FELKNER-ELLIOTT, )  
Plaintiff, ) Case Number 3:24-cv-00160-ART-CLB  
vs. )  
P.F. CHANG'S CHINA BISTRO, INC. )  
Defendant. )  
\_\_\_\_\_  
)**ORDER SCHEDULING  
SETTLEMENT CONFERENCE**

Pursuant to Magistrate Judge Carla Baldwin's Order (ECF No. 19) referring this matter for a settlement conference, an in-person settlement conference is hereby scheduled to commence on **TUESDAY, JULY 8, 2025, at 9:00 a.m.**, before the undersigned Magistrate Judge, Courtroom Number Two, Bruce R. Thompson U.S. Courthouse and Federal Building, 400 South Virginia Street, Reno, Nevada.

**I. ATTENDANCE OF TRIAL COUNSEL AND CLIENT/CLIENT  
REPRESENTATIVES**

All counsel of record who will be participating in the trial of this case, all parties appearing *pro se*, if any, and all individual parties must be present.

Unless excused by order of the court, clients or client representatives with complete authority to negotiate and consummate a settlement shall be in attendance at the settlement conference. This requires the presence of the client or if a corporate, governmental, or other organizational entity, an authorized representative of the client.

For a Defendant, such representative must have final settlement authority to commit the organization to pay, **in the representative's own discretion**, a settlement amount up to the Plaintiff's prayer, or up to the Plaintiff's last demand, whichever is lower. For a Plaintiff, such

1 representative must have final authority, **in the representative's own discretion**, to authorize  
2 dismissal of the case with prejudice, or to accept a settlement amount down to the Defendant's  
3 last offer. If board approval is required to authorize settlement, the attendance of at least one  
4 sitting member of the board (preferably the chairperson) is **absolutely required**.  
5

6 Any insurance company that is a party or may be contractually required to defend or to  
7 pay damages, if any, assessed within its policy limits in this case must have a fully authorized  
8 settlement representative present. Such representative must have final settlement authority to  
9 commit the company to pay, **in the representative's own discretion**, an amount within the  
10 policy limits, or up to the Plaintiff's last demand, whichever is lower.  
11

12 **The purpose of the requirement of personal attendance is to have a representative**  
13 **present who has both the authority to exercise his or her own discretion, and the realistic**  
14 **freedom to exercise such discretion without the negative consequences, in order to settle the**  
15 **case during the settlement conference without consulting someone else who is not present.**  
16

17 In the event counsel for any party is aware of any circumstance which might cast doubt on a  
18 client's compliance with this paragraph, he/she shall immediately discuss the circumstance with  
19 opposing counsel to resolve it well before the settlement conference, and, if such discussion does  
20 not resolve it, request a telephone conference with the court and counsel.  
21

22 Counsel appearing for the settlement conference without their client representatives or  
23 insurance company representatives, unless authorized as described above, may cause the  
24 settlement conference to be canceled or rescheduled. If this occurs, the non-complying party,  
25 attorney or insurer may be assessed the costs and expenses, including attorneys' fees, incurred by  
26 other parties and the court as a result of such cancellation, as well as any additional sanctions  
27  
28

1 deemed appropriate by the court. Counsel are responsible for timely advising any involved non-  
2 party insurance company of the requirements of this order.

3 **II. PURPOSE OF SETTLEMENT CONFERENCE**

4  
5 Obviously, the conference is intended to facilitate settlement of this case. It will be  
6 conducted in such a manner as not to prejudice any party in the event settlement is not reached.  
7 To that end, all matters communicated to the undersigned in confidence will be kept confidential,  
8 and will not be disclosed to any other party, or to the trial judge. The undersigned, of course,  
9 will not serve as the trial judge in this case.

10  
11 At the settlement conference the parties, by counsel, may be requested to present a brief  
12 (5-10 minute) *non-confrontational* presentation outlining the factual and legal highlights of their  
13 case. [If the parties believe the initial joint session will be counterproductive, please state so in  
14 your respective settlement briefs along with your rationale for same.] Thereafter, separate,  
15 confidential caucuses will be held with each party and/or the party's representative(s).

16 **III. PRE-CONFERENCE NEGOTIATIONS**

17  
18 Settlement conferences are often unproductive unless the parties have exchanged  
19 settlement proposals before the conference and the parties, and their counsel have made a serious  
20 effort to settle the case on their own. **Therefore, before arriving at the settlement conference,**  
21 **the parties are to negotiate and make a good faith effort to settle the case without the**  
22 **involvement of the Court. Specific proposals and counter proposals shall be made.**

23 Plaintiff(s) shall make an offer to defendant(s) ten (10) days prior to the settlement conference.  
24 Defendant(s) shall make a counteroffer to plaintiff(s) five (5) days prior to the settlement  
25 conference. The parties shall provide copies of the parties' offer and counteroffer to the court  
26 via email to [heidi\\_jordan@nvd.uscourts.gov](mailto:heidi_jordan@nvd.uscourts.gov). If the parties wish to be excused from this  
27  
28

1 procedure, they must obtain leave of court prior to the compliance deadline. **If the parties fail**  
2 **to present specific proposals and counter proposals prior to the settlement conference,**  
3 **sanctions may be imposed by the court if appropriate.** If settlement is not achieved before  
4 the settlement conference, the parties shall be prepared to engage in further negotiation at the  
5 conference.

7 **IV. SETTLEMENT CONFERENCE STATEMENT**

8 In preparation for the settlement conference, the attorneys for each party shall submit a  
9 confidential settlement conference statement for the court's *in camera* review. The settlement  
10 conference statement shall contain the following:

- 12 1. A brief statement of the nature of the action.
- 13 2. A concise summary of the evidence that supports your theory of the case, including  
14 information which documents your damages claims. You may attach to your statement  
15 those documents or exhibits which are especially relevant to key factual or legal issues,  
16 including selected pages from deposition transcripts or responses to other discovery  
17 requests. **Exhibits are to be tabbed and an exhibit index shall be included.**
- 18 3. An analysis of the key issues involved in the litigation.
- 19 4. A discussion of the strongest points in your case, both legal and factual, **and a frank**  
20 **discussion of the weakest points as well.** The court expects you to present a candid  
21 evaluation of the merits of your case.
- 22 5. A further discussion of the strongest and weakest points in your opponents' case, but only  
23 if they are more than simply the converse of the weakest and strongest points in your  
24 case.

1       6. Whether there is an ancillary litigation pending, or planned, which affects this case.

2           Additionally, if there are any liens, the parties should advise the court of the nature of an  
3           such liens and explain whether the attendance of any representative of a lien holder  
4           would be essential or perhaps beneficial to a successful resolution of this case. If a party  
5           believes the attendance of a lien holder's representative is necessary, the party shall  
6           separately contact and advise the undersigned's Judicial Assistant, Heidi Jordan,  
7           at (775) 686-5858.

8       7. An estimate of the cost (including attorneys' fees and costs) of taking this case through  
9           trial.

10      8. A history of settlement discussions, if any, which details the demands and offers which  
11           have been made, and the reasons they have been rejected.

12      9. The settlement proposal that you believe would be fair.

13      10. The settlement proposal that you would honestly be willing to make in order to conclude  
14           this matter and stop the expense of litigation.

15           The settlement conference statements shall be received by the Clerk's Office, 400 S.  
16           Virginia Street, Suite 301, not later than **TUESDAY, JULY 1, 2025, by 4:00 p.m.** DO NOT  
17           SERVE A COPY ON OPPOSING COUNSEL.

18           **The settlement conference statement should be delivered to the Clerk's Office in an**  
19           **envelope clearly marked "Confidential Contains Settlement Brief".**

20           The purpose of the settlement conference statement is to assist the court in preparing for  
21           and conducting the settlement conference. In order to facilitate a meaningful conference, your  
22           **utmost candor** in responding to all of the above listed questions is required. The settlement  
23           conference statements will not be seen by the trial judge. The confidentiality of each statement  
24           will be maintained.

1 will be strictly maintained in my chambers. Following the conference, the settlement conference  
2 statements will be destroyed.

3           **V.        BINDING SETTLEMENT**

4           If a settlement is achieved, the essential terms of the settlement will be placed on the  
5 record in either a sealed or unsealed format. The court will retain jurisdiction of the case to  
6 implement the settlement agreement and to resolve any dispute, discrepancy, or content of the  
7 terms of settlement. However, unless otherwise specifically ordered, the court's jurisdiction over  
8 this matter will terminate upon the entry of an order of dismissal. Once any order of dismissal is  
9 entered, however, the court's jurisdiction over this case is terminated.

10           Dated this 18<sup>th</sup> day of April 2025.

11           

12           U.S. Magistrate Judge, Craig S. Denney